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Origami photography: Pearson Education Ltd/Naki Kouyioumtzis

Written by David Martin
With thanks to Rachel Hawkes for translation strategies
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Please note: this Translation Booklet contains translation activities to support teaching of the Edexcel GCSE (9–1) French specification.
Strategies for translation into English

- Read the whole text through and get a sense of the overall meaning or gist.
- Work then at sentence or phrase level. For each, try to produce an English equivalent that sounds right.
- You cannot often translate word for word. Mostly, you need to paraphrase: i.e. find a phrase that has the same meaning, but uses different words.
- Try to work out the meaning of any unfamiliar words in the sentence. Consider words surrounding the unfamiliar word and try out words that would fit, using an English sentence with gaps. E.g. *Elles lisent un livre* = They *?* a book.
- Think about the context and use common sense. What makes sense in the context of the rest of the text?
- Once you have the meaning of the sentence in your head, play with the order of the words until you have English that sounds natural when you read it.
- The golden rule: read aloud what you have written. If it doesn't sound right to you, it probably isn't.
### Mark grid – foundation tier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No rewardable communication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Only isolated sentences or phrases are communicated. There are many major errors and omissions in the translation that prevent meaning being conveyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>The meaning of the passage is partially communicated. Some errors in the translation prevent meaning being conveyed, e.g. frequent use of incorrect words, omitted phrases, incorrect tenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>The meaning of the passage is mostly communicated. Occasional errors affect the flow or clarity of the translation, e.g. incorrect words, omitted words, inexact syntax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The meaning of the passage is fully communicated. Any errors do not detract from the overall flow or clarity of the translation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mark grid – higher tier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No rewardable communication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>The meaning of the passage is partially communicated. Some errors in the translation prevent meaning being conveyed, e.g. frequent use of incorrect words, omitted phrases, incorrect tenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>The meaning of the passage is mostly communicated. Occasional errors affect the flow or clarity of the translation, e.g. incorrect words, omitted words, inexact syntax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The meaning of the passage is fully communicated. Any errors do not detract from the overall effectiveness of the translation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please note**: the example answers for both foundation and higher tiers show one way that the texts could be correctly translated and there may be several other ways - professional judgement should be used to determine whether meaning has been correctly transferred when marking students’ work.
Translations into English

Foundation tier Translation 1
(Identity and culture: celebrations and festivals)

Translate this passage into English.


Example response:

On 21 June, it’s the festival of music in France. It is a big festival, popular and free. The participants are amateurs or professionals. Many French people play a musical instrument. The festival started in 1982.

(Total for Question = 7 marks)

Foundation tier Translation 2
(Local area, holiday and travel: weather)

Translate this passage into English.

La France a un climat agréable. Il y a beaucoup de soleil et de pluie. Il ne fait ni trop froid, ni trop chaud. Il fait moins beau au Nord et à l'Ouest. L’année dernière, le temps était généralement sec.

Example response:

France has a pleasant climate. There is a lot of sun and rain. It is neither too cold nor too hot. It is less nice in the North and the West. Last year, the weather was generally dry.

(Total for Question = 7 marks)
Foundation tier Translation 3

(School: school rules)

Translate this passage into English.


Example response:

In Nice, lessons at school begin at 8.20. Students must arrive on time. They must respect adults. Now, mobiles and electronic games are forbidden. In the past, you could use them.

(Total for Question = 7 marks)

Foundation tier Translation 4

(Future aspirations, study and work: volunteering)

Translate this passage into English.


Example response:

Alexis says, ‘I am sixteen and I go to college. I do voluntary work for a charity. I type texts and do research on the Internet. It is good to help others. I have learned a lot.’

(Total for Question = 7 marks)

Example response:

Laëtitia Tonazzi is an excellent footballer. She plays for the French team. But during the week she works in an office. She did not participate in the World Cup. She had to stay in France and earn money.

(Total for Question = 7 marks)
Selon un sondage, les jeunes sont aujourd'hui collés à leur smartphone. Ils y sont tellement accros que la majorité des Français de 13 à 24 ans indiquent ne pas pouvoir sortir sans portable. Ils veulent être connectés partout, toute la journée. Beaucoup d’adolescents français préféreraient abandonner leur télévision plutôt que leur téléphone.

Example response:

According to a survey, young people today are glued to their smartphone. They are so addicted to it that the majority of French people aged 13-24 say that they cannot go out without their mobile. They want to be connected everywhere, all day. Many French teenagers would prefer to give up their television rather than their phone.

Higher tier Translation 2

(Local area, holidays and travel: holidays)

Translate this passage into English.


Example response:

Have you any ideas about nice places to spend a family holiday in Europe? Do you know if you need passports to stay in Europe? My children and I are of French nationality – we all have an identity card. I spent my last birthday in England and frankly I was very happy.
Higher tier Translation 3

(School: celebrating success)

Translate this passage into English.

On offre des mesures positives d’encouragement aux élèves qui travaillent bien. On fait des compliments aux enfants dont l’attitude et les résultats sont satisfaisants. Les félicitations récompensent ceux qui ont fait de l’excellent travail. Nous donnerons des prix pour distinguer les personnes ayant accompli des actions qui prouvent leur implication dans le domaine de la citoyenneté.

Example response:

We offer positive measures of encouragement to pupils who work well. We give compliments to children whose attitude and results are satisfactory. Congratulations are given to those whose have done excellent work. We will give prizes to recognise people who have taken actions to prove their involvement in the area of citizenship.

(Total for Question = 7 marks)
Higher tier Translation 4
(Future aspirations, study and work: careers and professions)

Translate this passage into English.

J’ai choisi la profession du travail social parce que j’aime travailler avec les gens. La soif de justice était importante, et finalement le désir de faire une différence. Après 30 ans, je n’ai jamais regretté mon choix. J’ai gardé les messages des clients satisfaits et je continuerai à poursuivre ma carrière en aidant les autres.

Example response:

I chose the profession of social work because I like working with people. The thirst for justice was important, and finally the desire to make a difference. After 30 years I have never regretted my choice. I have kept messages from satisfied clients and I shall continue to pursue my career helping others.

(Total for Question = 7 marks)

Higher tier Translation 5
(International and global dimension: being ‘green’)

Translate this passage into English.

Une nouvelle école francophone a ouvert ses portes à Vancouver. Quarante-trois élèves sont en classe dans le nouvel établissement écologique, évalué à 9 millions de dollars. Le plancher de l’école est chauffé grâce à un dispositif géothermique. Un mur végétal a été installé à l’extérieur, et l’eau de pluie est recueillie afin d’être réutilisée.

Example response:

A new French-speaking school has opened its doors in Vancouver. 43 students attend the new ecological building, which cost 9 million dollars. The floor of the school is heated by means of a geothermic device. A living wall has been installed outside and rainwater is collected in order to be reused.

(Total for Question = 7 marks)
Strategies for translation into French

- Read the whole text through once.
- Work then at sentence level. For each, try to produce a French equivalent.
- As you build each sentence, use a mental checklist for accuracy:
  - **Verbs**
    - Subject – Verb agreement (Who is doing what?)
    - Tense (When?)
    - Position in the sentence
  - **Nouns**
    - Masculine / Feminine
    - Singular / Plural
    - Definite / Indefinite article
  - **Adjectives**
    - Noun – Adjective agreement
    - Position
- If you don’t know a word, try to think of a synonym or similar word
- If you can’t think of a suitable replacement word, use a short paraphrase to describe it
- If a whole sentence is too complex, try to express the meaning with a simpler expression
- Go through your work thoroughly. Imagine you have been given the job of marking it. Check for spelling, accents, and the items on your grammar checklist.

My notes
Mark grid – foundation tier

This mark grid applies to sentences (a), (b) and (c) which are worth 2 marks each. The mark grid will be applied to each individual sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No rewardable communication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Meaning partially communicated with inaccuracies that disturb clarity or prevent meaning being conveyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Meaning fully communicated with occasional inaccuracies that disturb the flow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mark grid – higher tier

This mark grid applies to sentences (d) and (e) which are worth 3 marks each. The mark grid will be applied to each individual sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No rewardable communication.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1-4  | • The meaning of the passage is partially communicated, some words and phrases are omitted/incorrectly communicated  
• Linguistic structures are used with accuracy in some phrases and sentences but inaccuracies sometimes disturb clarity or prevent meaning being conveyed |
| 5-8  | • The meaning of the passage is mostly communicated, occasional words are omitted/incorrectly communicated  
• Generally accurate application of grammar; inaccuracies rarely affect the flow or clarity of the writing |
| 9-12 | • The meaning of the passage is fully communicated  
• Sustained accurate application of grammar throughout; any inaccuracies do not hinder the overall flow or clarity of the writing |

Please note: the example answers for both foundation and higher tiers show one way that the texts could be correctly translated and there may be several other ways - professional judgement should be used to determine whether meaning has been correctly transferred when marking students’ work.
Translations into French

Foundation tier Translation 6

(Identity and culture: food and drink)

Traduis les phrases suivantes en français.

a) I like to go to the restaurant.
Example response: J’aime aller au restaurant

(2)

b) My parents are vegetarians.
Example response: Mes parents sont végétariens.

(2)

c) They never eat meat or fish.
Example response: Ils ne mangent jamais de viande ou de poisson.

(2)

d) Last Saturday, we ate in a French café in London.
Example response: Samedi dernier, nous avons mangé dans un restaurant français à Londres.

(3)

e) I ordered steak and chips, but they preferred a green salad.
Example response: J’ai commandé un steak-frites, mais ils ont préféré une salade verte.

(3)

(Total for Question = 12 marks)

Foundation tier Translation 7

(Local area, holiday and travel: places to see/things to do)

Traduis les phrases suivantes en français.

a) My friend Zahra lives in a village.
Example response: Ma copine Zahra habite dans un village.

(2)

b) She often goes to town by bus.
Example response: Elle va souvent en ville en autobus.

(2)

c) She likes to visit churches and museums.
Example response: Elle aime visiter les églises et les musées.

(2)

d) Last week we visited an old castle.
Example response: La semaine dernière, nous avons visité un vieux château.

(3)

e) It was fun because we bought lots of presents.
Example response: C’était amusant, parce que nous avons acheté beaucoup de cadeaux.

(3)

(Total for Question = 12 marks)
**Foundation tier Translation 8**

(School: subjects)

**Traduis les phrases suivantes en français.**

a) At school, I study ten subjects.  
Example response: *Au collège, j’étudie dix matières.*  
(2)

b) English and PE are very important for me.  
Example response: *L’anglais et l’éducation physique sont très importants pour moi.*  
(2)

c) I have a lot of homework every day.  
Example response: *J’ai beaucoup de devoirs tous les jours.*  
(2)

d) Yesterday, I read an article about French rivers.  
Example response: *Hier, j’ai lu un article sur les rivières françaises.*  
(3)

e) It was interesting, because I love studying geography.  
Example response: *C’était intéressant, parce que j’aime étudier la géographie.*  
(3)

(Total for Question = 12 marks)

**Foundation tier Translation 9**

(Future aspirations, study and work: training)

**Traduis les phrases suivantes en français.**

a) I want to work with computers.  
Example response: *Je veux travailler avec des ordinateurs.*  
(2)

b) I have to study Maths, Science and Technology.  
Example response: *Je dois étudier les maths, les sciences et la technologie.*  
(2)

c) I hope to start an apprenticeship soon.  
Example response: *J’espère bientôt commencer un apprentissage.*  
(2)

d) In the past, computers were very simple and boring.  
Example response: *Dans le passé, les ordinateurs étaient très simples et ennuyeux.*  
(3)

e) Now, they are useful in every profession.  
Example response: *Maintenant, ils sont utiles dans toutes les professions.*  
(3)

(Total for Question = 12 marks)
**Foundation tier Translation 10**

(International and global dimension: music events)

**Traduis les phrases suivantes en français.**

a) This year, the festival starts in July.
Example response: *Cette année, le festival commence en juillet.*

b) It is an international festival of music.
Example response: *C’est un festival international de musique.*

c) There are many free concerts.
Example response: *Il y a beaucoup de concerts gratuits.*

d) Last year, people came from all over the world.
Example response: *L’année dernière, les gens sont venus de partout dans le monde.*

e) They liked the friendly atmosphere of the festival.
Example response: *Ils ont aimé l’ambiance amicale du festival.*

(Total for Question = 12 marks)

**Higher tier Translation 6**

(Identity and culture: role models)

**Traduis le passage suivant en français.**

My dad has always done everything for us. He has never been rich, but he works hard to give us a good life. He helps us with our homework, and so we will be able to succeed at school and get a well-paid job. I would like to become like him, strong and independent.

Example response:

*Mon papa a toujours tout fait pour nous. Il n’a jamais été riche, mais il travaille dur pour nous donner une bonne vie. Il nous aide avec nos devoirs, et nous pourrons donc réussir à l’école et trouver un emploi bien payé. J’aimerais devenir comme lui, fort et indépendant.*

(Total for Question = 12 marks)
**Higher tier Translation 7**

(Local area, holiday and travel: holiday preferences)

**Traduis le passage suivant en français.**

This summer, many French tourists will be going to Corsica. Outside of France, the United States is the most popular destination. Most women prefer Brittany, despite the variable weather, while men often choose to take a holiday in Canada. Last year, more French people visited the Italian city of Florence than Paris.

Example response:

*Cet été, beaucoup de touristes français vont aller en Corse. En dehors de la France, les États-Unis sont la destination la plus populaire. La plupart des femmes préfèrent la Bretagne, malgré le temps variable, tandis que les hommes choisissent souvent de prendre des vacances au Canada. L’année dernière, plus de Français ont visité la ville italienne de Florence que Paris.*

(Total for Question = 12 marks)

**Higher tier Translation 8**

(School: school exchanges)

**Traduis le passage suivant en français.**

Last year, over 1000 French and British schools participated in exchanges. Visiting a partner school can be a useful experience. One Parisian headteacher told us, ‘You can start via the Internet, and continue with a school visit. Next winter, we shall be taking 50 students to study English at a college in Wales.’

Example response:


(Total for Question = 12 marks)
Higher tier Translation 9

(Future aspirations, study and work: employment)

Traduis le passage suivant en français.

Learning a foreign language is a great way to communicate and discover another culture. In order to succeed, knowledge of the spoken language is essential. One student told us, ‘I used to watch French films on television. Next September, I’ll be starting work as a receptionist in a Paris hotel, using my languages every day.’

Example response:

Apprendre une langue étrangère est un formidable moyen de communiquer et de découvrir une culture différente. Pour réussir, une connaissance de la langue parlée est essentielle. Un étudiant nous a dit, ‘Je regardais des films français à la télévision. En septembre prochain, je vais commencer à travailler comme réceptionniste dans un hôtel parisien, utilisant mes langues tous les jours.’

(Total for Question = 12 marks)

Higher tier Translation 10

(International and global dimension: campaigns and good causes)

Traduis le passage suivant en français.

WAPA is a Belgian charity which works with victims of war in many different countries. It is currently constructing a hospital in Africa. They have already found volunteers who have promised to help by organising a meal or a sporting event. After completing this task, each participant wants to send 1000 Euros to the project.

Example response:

WAPA est une organisation caritative belge qui travaille avec les victimes de la guerre dans beaucoup de pays différents. Elle construit actuellement un hôpital en Afrique. Ils ont déjà trouvé des volontaires qui ont promis d’aider en organisant un repas ou un événement sportif. Après avoir fini cette tâche, chaque participant veut envoyer mille euros au projet.

(Total for Question = 12 marks)